

deposit terms at Yerraguntala from State Government/Local Municipality. Rs. 5 Crore in the 97-98 Budget have been provided for Nandyal-Yerraguntala new BG line. Work will be taken up after land is made available by State Government Detailed Territorial jurisdictions of newly created zones have not yet been finalised.

#### Reduction in Running time of Rajdhani Express

4166. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the running time of Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Chennai;

(b) whether it is a fact that this route has more passenger traffic than the other metro connections;

(c) if so, the reasons for not increasing the schedule from once a week to six times a week; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Upgradation of technology for speeding up of the trains is a continuous process on the Indian Railways.

(b) Route-wise data of passenger traffic are not maintained.

(c) and (d) The frequency of 2633/2634 Madras Rajdhani Express is being increased from weekly to bi-weekly during April'97. Further increase in its frequency is not feasible at present.

#### Development of Srinagar Airport

4167. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for developing Srinagar airport as an international airport; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Clearance/approval of that Ministry has been sought for developing facilities to enable international operations from Srinagar airport.

#### Bharat Gold Mines Limited

4168. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the operation of BGML;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up a new process plant based on carbon-inpulp technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) during each of the last three years is furnished below :

(Unit is Kgs.)

Year	Production
1993-94	672
1994-95	650
1995-96	650

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The rehabilitation package, submitted by M/s ICICI, the Operating Agency for the revival of BGML, envisages setting up of a project for recovery of gold by treatment of tailing through carbon-in-pulp technology.

#### Beedi Industries in Kerala

4169. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedi industries in Kerala are facing serious financial crises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the workers specially the large section of poor women employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Extraction of Lead from Bihar

4170. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey for exploration of lead in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the outcome thereof;